

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing Amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,178 to Endo et al. ("Endo") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0015720 to Inukai. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Endo discloses a portable computer and a pointing device including many of the features recited in the pending claims, but concedes that Endo fails to disclose trimmable chip resistors disposed on a sensor substrate. The Office Action relies on Inukai to correct the deficiency of Endo by disclosing a pointing device in which chip resistors 10a-10c are disposed on the sensor substrate 1 (see Fig. 1 of Inukai). The Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the chip resistors of Inukai with the portable computer and/or pointing device disclosed by Endo to include all of the features recited in pending claims 1 and 3.

However, Inukai discloses a pointing device in which the chip resistors 10a and 10c are positioned on the X-axis of the pointing device and chip resistors 10b and 10d are formed on the Y-axis of the pointing device (see paragraph [0043] of Inukai). Inukai does not disclose a pointing device in which the X-axis operating state of the stick member is defined by at least a first and second strain sensor and a center of the base part, and the Y-axis is formed by at least a third and fourth strain sensor and a center of the base part, and wherein the trimmable chip resistors disposed on the sensor substrate are at locations other than the X-axis and Y-axis operating state, as recited in claims 1 and 3. Inukai discloses only that the chip resistors are located along the X-axis and Y-axis and not, as recited in pending claims 1

and 3, disposed on the sensor substrate at locations other than the X-axis and Y-axis of the operating state of the stick member.


Further, this configuration is advantageous to exemplary embodiments of the invention because, for example, each chip resistor 8A-8D is disposed outside apart from each strain sensor 7A-7D, a resistance value of each chip resistor will not change even when the sensor substrate 2 is deformed by operation of the stick 3. Furthermore, each chip resistor is capable of providing an effective resistance value. See page 8, line 18, - page 9, line 3, of the specification.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and 3 recite features not disclosed by Endo or Inukai, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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